



Regional Service Council Minutes Region # 2

Meeting Date: Wednesday, August 1, 2007 – 4:00 P.M. C.S.T

Meeting Location: Starke County Circuit Courthouse, Knox, IN

Council Members Present: Terrance K. Ciboch, Claudia Clark, Linda Gray, Judge Mary Harper, Larry Harris, Sharon Mathew, Melissa Johnson

Council Members Absent: Judge Jeryl Leach, Dr. Linda Rugg, Judge Michael Shurn

Others In Attendance: Ron Fisher, Dan Graffenus, (Keys Counseling), Jim Burns, (Family Focus), Jackie Agee, (Whites Family Services), James Shively, (Regional Child Welfare Services), Jill Whitaker, (Dunebrook), Nancy Koepkyer, (Lifeline Youth and Family), David Eilar, (Wernle), Paula Dranger, (Choices Counseling)

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Called to Order: Regional Service Council meeting was called to order by Reba James, Regional Manager for Region #2 at 4:05 p.m. C.S.T.

1. It was noted that 7 Council members were present when the meeting was called to order, enough to constitute a quorum.
2. May 2nd minutes reviewed. There were no additions, no corrections. Sharon Mathew made a motion to accept the May minutes, and this was seconded by Larry Harris. Vote taken, 0 opposed, 0 abstained, minutes passed.
3. Reba James introduced herself to the RSC as the new Regional Manager for Region #2, and asked that the Council introduce themselves as a refresher to her and also due to a new appointment to the Council present, Melissa Johnson, FCM from Porter County.
4. **RSC PRESENTATION:** Terrance Ciboch, Director of LaPorte County presented a power point illustration outlining the directives of the Regional Service Council.

REGIONAL SERVICES COUNCIL:

- a. Implemented by Director Payne in late 2005
- b. Purchasing power of multi-county regions can provide broader services in a cost –effective manner

c. A continuum of services should be available and provided for every family in every county

COUNCIL ROLE;

a. Council reviews services available in each county/region

b. Determines service needs, availability, and opportunities

c. Works with Central Office to develop request for Proposals (RFP) to solicit needed services

FISCAL ROLE:

a. Approves all funding decisions for service delivery over \$1,000

b. Includes all programs/services funded through federal, state or local funding streams

RSC MEMBERSHIP:

a. Regional Manager

b. Three Judges having juvenile jurisdiction

c. Three County Directors

d. One FCM Supervisor

e. One Family Case Manager

f. One Foster Parent

g. One G.A.L. or C.A.S.A

MEMBER TERMS:

a. ½ serve two (2) years

b. ½ serve three (3) years

c. Thereafter every two (2) years expiring members notify Regional Manager of intent to continue or to step down

APPOINTMENT TO RSC:

a. Juvenile Judges select three (3) members. Member judges may send a proxy to meetings if unavailable

b. Regional Manager selects

1. Three (3) County Directors

2. FCM Supervisor

3. Family Case Manager

4. Foster Parent selected as determined by previously identified RSC members

5. G.A.L. /C.A.S.A. selected as determined by previously identified RSC members

5. CHILD WELFARE SERVICE FUNDING PROGRAMS: In past meetings, each County had identified monies they would like to use this funding for and the total was \$376,000.00. Proposals were sent to Central Office with this request and our Region was granted an amount of only \$46,915.00. LaPorte County DCS is the holder of that money at this time. This is not the total monies for the Child

Welfare Account; this is additional funding. The majority of the original request for \$376,000.00 was for funding for the Family Focus, Kids program.

Since LaPorte County is holding these monies, an e-mail would be sent out to each of the Counties designated telling them how much money is available to them. Terrance Ciboch made a final motion that the \$46,915.00 be allocated in the following way, 51% to Porter County, 31% to Jasper County, and 18% to LaPorte County, appropriately rounded. Larry Harris seconded the motion. Vote taken, 0 opposed, 3 abstentions, Judge Mary Harper, Sharon Mathew, and Terrance Ciboch.

Council had some discussion and concerns about spending their own child welfare services monies that they had ear-marked for specific programs in each County and direction was very vague as to how this money could be spent. Terrance Ciboch made a motion that Counties periodically bring back a summary report to the RSC on what they have spent their monies on. This motion was seconded by Judge Mary Harper. Vote taken, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, motion passed.

6. COMMUNITY PARTNERS: AdHoc Committee report - Reba James stated that Community Partners was working for everyone. They had given the “go ahead” to Dunebrook to move forward and begin accepting referrals from other agencies. The meeting was then turned over to Jill Whitaker from Dunebrook to give her report to the RSC. The following handout was presented to the RSC.

Initial Screens completed to date: 97

- a. Jasper County – 5
- b. LaPorte – 56
- c. Newton – 4
- d. Porter – 17
- e. Pulaski – 8
- f. Starke – 7

“Screen-outs” – 18 (Referrals given to other “Community Partners”)

Families currently active in Community Partners cases management services, based on monthly reports/date for June, 2007 – 42 families have completed and/or terminated the program since start-up.

- a. Jasper – 3
- b. LaPorte – 22
- c. Newton – 0
- d. Porter – 7
- e. Pulaski – 4
- f. Starke – 2

176 total home/family visits – January to June, 2007

Families presenting issues – strength-based focus/assessment, resource connection

- a. Housing
- b. Parenting issues
- c. Economic needs
- d. Domestic violence
- e. Adolescent probation – family support services
- f. Adjustment to single parenting
- g. Children and adults with special needs
- h. Crisis issues – e.g., fire victim

Discussion areas:

- a. Department of Child Services Audit (July 24-26, 2007)
- b. Marketing/outreach plan – expansion from solely DCS staff referrals – outreach completed to schools, probation, Healthy Families programs, Step-Ahead Councils, etc.,
- c. Training on Parnertude, state database
- d. Staffing/planning

Dunebrook has spent ¼ of their monies, or 22%, \$83,677.00 and has \$388,372.00 funding remaining. The AdHoc committee is the advisory council over Dunebrook. Since the previous chair is no longer on the council, a new chair will need to be appointed.

7. COMMUNITY PARTNERS EVALUATION: Terrance Ciboch presented an evaluation that he had developed and handed out to the RSC. One of the functions of the RSC is to evaluate programming. The RSC should know what these folks need to complete. Since one of the RSC functions is to evaluate programs, we suggest the evaluation be approved to use. This suggestion was turned into a motion by Judge Mary Harper and seconded by Claudia Clark. It was noted that we need to also consider outcomes in completing an measurable evaluation. There was a motion on the floor to approve the use of an evaluation and a vote was called for. Vote taken, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions.

Mention was made that Dunebrook recently had an audit by the State of Indiana, but the RSC was not informed and they are supposed to oversee that program. Terrance Ciboch asked the Regional Manager to find out why RSC was not notified about this audit and if they were going to receive a report on the findings by the State. Regional Manager will address this with the State of Indiana.

8. OLD BUSINESS; SEX OFFENDERS RFP: This project has been on the table for a long time, and it was agreed to make a motion and move on. The recommendation of the committee was, that one group could not provide a full range of services for all of the counties and there is disagreement as to what should be done because of that. A motion was made by Terrance Ciboch that we kill this proposal and put it to rest, and continue to provide services as we always have.

Sharon Mathew seconded the motion. Vote taken, 1 opposed, and 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

9. JIM SHIVELY: The RFP process is beginning again and is in the formative stages. Starting in the next two (2) weeks we are officially launching into the planning process for the next RFP which will probably be released sometime next spring. Terrance Ciboch brought up discussion about funding for Intensive Family Preservation - Intensive Family Reunification. Mention was made that \$190,000.00 is still not being utilized from that fund, actually only 1% usage was noted. This money is for LaPorte County and actually there is about \$300,000.00/\$400,000.00 for the full Region that is not being applied and waiting to be used. These monies cannot be reallocated, and we have 5 months to spend this money. There is an additional \$16 million dollars available at the State level. IL is moving along and there are about 22 kids that have had services so far, and there is ample funding available.

10. MEMBER COMMENTS: Judge Mary Harper asked if there is funding available for juveniles with mental health issues. Jim Shively stated probationers are eligible for all the services that CPS are eligible for assuming they meet the criteria of looking like they are going to be a CHINS person. However, they need to have some sort of a case plan; but if those criteria are met, the services are available. The service standards indicates that probation users are eligible if they meet 3 of the 4 criteria. Reba James stated that in upcoming IL meetings at the regional level, Probation Officers will be invited to attend to discuss our referral process and information regarding guidelines for probation youth, and to brainstorm how we can work better with the Probation Department.

Regional Manager handed out a Strategic Plan for Region #2, and this will be addressed at the next meeting.

Judge Mary Harper requested that time and location of the RSC meetings be put back on the agenda for discussion at the next RSC meeting.

Next meeting is scheduled for September 5, 2007 at the Starke County Courthouse at 4:00 p.m. C.S.T.

Larry Harris moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Sharon Mathew. Meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m. C.S.T.